

REMARKS

Applicant is in receipt of the Office Action mailed October 5, 2004. Claims 1-30 were rejected. Applicant has submitted amendments for claims 1, 9, 11, 19, 21, and 29. Claims 1-30 remain pending in the application.

Claims 1-8, 10-18, 20-28, and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Microsoft Excel 2000 (screenshots 1-7, copyright 1995-1999), hereinafter “Excel.” Claims 9, 19, and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Excel in view of Norden-Paul et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,247,611), hereinafter “Norden-Paul.” Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections in light of the following remarks.

In regard to independent claim 1 as amended, Applicant respectfully submits that Excel does not teach or suggest “displaying the numeric values in a plurality of number fields in columnar format down the plurality of rows on the display screen and alongside the one or more operation fields in the first column” (emphasis added). Excel discloses a standard spreadsheet having multiple columns (e.g., A, B, C, etc.) and multiple rows (e.g., 1, 2, 3, etc.). In a standard spreadsheet, the intersection of a row and a column is referred to as a field or a cell. Each column in Excel includes a set of fields, one on top of another. Excel does not teach or suggest two types of fields, such as operation fields and number fields, being displayed alongside one another in the same column. In the Excel example screenshots cited by the Office Action, for example, the set of operation fields is typically displayed above, not alongside, the set of number fields.

Also in regard to claim 1 as amended, Applicant respectfully submits that Norden-Paul does not teach or suggest “displaying the numeric values in a plurality of number fields in columnar format down the plurality of rows on the display screen and alongside the one or more operation fields in the first column” (emphasis added). Norden-Paul relates to the display and organization of data, not to the calculation of

numeric results using mathematical operators. Norden-Paul does not teach or suggest the display of mathematical operators in operation fields.

Further in regard to claim 1 as amended, Applicant respectfully submits that Excel does not teach or suggest “entering an open parenthesis character in an upper row in the first column; entering a close parenthesis character in a lower row in the first column, wherein the lower row is displayed below the upper row on the display screen; automatically calculating a result by applying the set of mathematical operators to the set of numeric values and by following an order of evaluation which respects the open and close parentheses.” As shown in the Excel screenshots provided with the Office Action, Excel does allow a user to enter an open parenthesis character in an upper row and a close parenthesis character in a lower row. However, such parentheses in Excel would be useful for display purposes only, because Excel can only evaluate open and close parentheses as part of a formula if they are in the same cell. Therefore, Excel cannot automatically calculate a result using open and close parentheses in different rows to establish an order of evaluation.

Norden-Paul discloses a spreadsheet system used for the display and management of records such as hospital records. Norden-Paul does not disclose the use of parentheses in different rows or the calculation of results following an order of evaluation which respects the parentheses. Accordingly, Norden-Paul also fails to teach or suggest “entering an open parenthesis character in an upper row in the first column; entering a close parenthesis character in a lower row in the first column, wherein the lower row is displayed below the upper row on the display screen; automatically calculating a result by applying the set of mathematical operators to the set of numeric values and by following an order of evaluation which respects the open and close parentheses.”

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 11, and 21 are patentably distinct from Excel and Norden-Paul, both individually and in combination. The remaining dependent claims provide additional limitations to the independent claims. Therefore, Applicant submits that

claims 1-30 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the §102(b) and §103(a) rejections.

CONCLUSION


Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any extensions of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) are necessary to prevent the above referenced application(s) from becoming abandoned, Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extensions. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel PC Deposit Account No. 50-1505/5676-00700/JCH.

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

- ☒ Return Receipt Postcard
- ☒ Notice of Change of Address

Respectfully submitted,



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